



Fall 2003

Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project

Fact Sheet

Five Alternatives

Replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall will meet several needs including seismic vulnerability, traffic safety, roadway design deficiencies, system linkage, and bicycle and pedestrian safety and accessibility. After taking into account over 75 design concepts, WSDOT and the City of Seattle have selected five alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental review process.

Rebuild. Rebuild existing viaduct in-place with similar structure and footprint to today. Rebuild independent seawall. Provides similar access to today.

Aerial. Replace viaduct with new, wider structure, lanes, and shoulders. Rebuild independent seawall. Provides similar access to today.

Tunnel. Replace viaduct with 6-lane tunnel along the central waterfront. Use western wall of tunnel as new seawall. Provides downtown access at new ramps north and south of downtown.

Bypass Tunnel. Replace viaduct with 4-lane tunnel along the central waterfront and expand Alaskan Way to 6 lanes. Use western wall of the tunnel as new seawall. Provides access directly to and from downtown on surface Alaskan Way and bypasses downtown using new tunnel.

Surface. Replace viaduct with 6-to-8 lane surface Alaskan Way. Rebuild independent seawall. Provides access to downtown on surface Alaskan Way, using signalized intersections. Relies on increased transit ridership.

Cost Estimate Ranges

In January 2002, WSDOT instituted the Cost Estimate Validation Process™ (CEVP™), as a new method to improve cost estimating for complex transportation projects. This means risks and opportunities that may affect cost or schedule are identified, incorporated into estimates, and addressed early in project development. The results of CEVP™ for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project are:

Rebuild	\$3.2 - \$3.5 Billion
Aerial	\$3.2 - \$3.5 Billion
Tunnel	\$3.8 - \$4.1 Billion
Bypass Tunnel	\$3.1 - \$3.4 Billion
Surface	\$2.5 - \$2.8 Billion

Progress

WSDOT and the City are moving forward to find an efficient solution. Highlights of recent progress are:

- The project team expanded the number of alternatives in the draft EIS from three to five to consider a wider range of cost, construction durations, and community impacts.
- The Cost Estimate Validation Process™ (CEVP™) has been completed for all alternatives, providing up-to-date cost estimate ranges.
- A fast track schedule is being met, calling for a preferred plan to be selected in 2004, final design approval in 2005, and construction to begin as early as 2008.





Funding To Date

Securing funding is critical to replacing the viaduct and seawall. Over \$210 million was dedicated to the project in 2002 and 2003, thanks to the State of Washington, City of Seattle, and U.S. Congress through Senator Murray's leadership. A majority of this funding came from the 2003 Legislative Transportation Funding Package (the "Nickel Fund"), which provides \$177 million to the project over the next 10 years. WSDOT and the City are pursuing a range of long-term construction funding sources. Federal, state, regional, and local sources are all a possibility in order to make this project a reality.

An Urgent Need, A Unique Opportunity

The State of Washington cannot afford to lose the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall. Without quick action to replace these two critical structures, the next earthquake could damage them beyond repair.

Over 50 years old, the viaduct carries almost twice its originally designed capacity. Weathered concrete, rusting rebar and eroding pavement means routine

maintenance is not cost effective. The seawall, almost 70 years old, showed signs of movement during the Nisqually Earthquake. Major voids and deteriorated wood pilings, caused by age and marine crustaceans, give reason for serious concern.

Public safety, the regional economy, and quality of life are all at risk if no action is taken. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the City of Seattle (City) have joined in partnership to carry out a plan to replace the viaduct and seawall.

Learn More

Learn more about the project or ask a question!

Website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/project/viaduct

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Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Project

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